

Regular Session, 2000

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVES WILKERSON AND DEWITT

HEALTH CARE: Creates a committee to review health care costs and services
in the state of Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create a select committee on Health Care Services and Financing to review
3 the delivery and cost of health care services in the state of Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, monitoring the cost and delivery of health care services in
5 the state is an essential step in evaluating the effectiveness of various health
6 care programs and in developing health care policy for the future; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana is the most unhealthy state in the nation ranking
8 fiftieth on the list of healthiest states in the country; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana's ranking as the most unhealthy state in the
10 country stems in part from a lack of access to routine and preventative health
11 care, a high incidence of chronic diseases, a high mortality rate, and a high
12 premature death rate; and

13 WHEREAS, Louisiana ranked worst in the nation in health indicators,
14 including first in the nation in diabetes death rates and first in the nation in
15 percentage of low birth weight babies; and

16 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has one of the highest populations
17 of children under the poverty level, creating a desperate need for child health
18 care service; and

1 WHEREAS, the limited availability of primary care practitioners poses
2 a significant problem in the delivery of health care services in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance
4 recognizes seventy-seven primary care shortage areas in the state where a lack
5 of health care providers poses serious barriers to the delivery of adequate
6 health care services in the area; and

7 WHEREAS, because of the inequitable geographic distribution of
8 health care resources, over ninety percent of the communities in the state have
9 been designated as medically underserved areas or populations where the lack
10 of an adequate supply and distribution of health care professionals results in
11 a failure to provide access to basic health services; and

12 WHEREAS, Louisiana ranked fourteenth highest nationally in the
13 number of emergency room outpatient visits to community hospitals because
14 the lack of primary care services forces many people to seek care at
15 community hospital emergency rooms, placing an undue burden on hospital
16 resources; and

17 WHEREAS, Louisiana's small rural hospitals have been suffering
18 financial distress and some are facing the possibility of closing their doors; and

19 WHEREAS, Louisiana must address the health care professional
20 shortage problem to meet the health care needs of its residents and reduce the
21 burden on state hospitals; and

22 WHEREAS, Louisiana spent almost six billion dollars on hospital care
23 in 1993, placing it seventeenth in the nation for hospital care spending; and

24 WHEREAS, Louisiana spent over one billion dollars on hospital
25 financing, construction, and maintenance in 1997, placing it seventh in the
26 nation for state government expenditures for hospitals and second in the nation
27 for per capita state government expenditures for hospitals; and

1 WHEREAS, seventeen percent of the state's population are Medicaid
2 recipients and nineteen percent of Louisiana's population is not covered by any
3 health insurance, placing it eighth in the nation for uninsured persons; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1998 Louisiana paid over \$2.3 billion to Medicaid
5 vendors resulting in one of the highest rates of Medicaid funding per state
6 resident; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana spent 13.8% of its gross state product on health
8 care expenditures in 1993, placing it eighth in the nation for health care
9 spending.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
11 of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a select committee on
12 Health Care Services and Financing to review the delivery and cost of health
13 care services in the state of Louisiana to be composed of five members from
14 the House Committee on Health and Welfare, five members from the House
15 Committee on Appropriations, five members from the House Committee on
16 Insurance, three members from the House Committee on Education, two
17 members from the House Committee on Criminal Justice, two members from
18 the House Committee on Civil Law, two members from the House Committee
19 on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, and one at-large member from
20 the House of Representatives, all of whom are to be appointed by the speaker
21 of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the select committee on Health
23 Care Services and Financing shall report its findings and recommendations to
24 the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2001 Regular
25 Session.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Wilkerson

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